STATE OF VERMONT

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

In re)	Fair	Hearing	No.	20,422
)				
Appeal of)				

INTRODUCTION

The petitioner appealed a decision by Department for Children and Families denying petitioner General Assistance benefits. The issue is whether the petitioner meets the eligibility requirements of the General Assistance program.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The facts are not in dispute.
- 2. The petitioner is fifty-four years old and his wife is fifty-one years old. The parties have no minor children.
- 3. The petitioner and his wife are able-bodied.

 Petitioner has worked as a handyman. He applied for General Assistance during a period in which he was out of work. The application was under the non-catastrophic rules.

ORDER

The Department's decision is affirmed.

REASONS

The General Assistance program was created as a stop-gap program to meet household emergency needs. 33 V.S.A. § 2103, Welfare Assistance Manual (WAM) 2600. In the absence of a catastrophic situation, "no general assistance shall be provided in the following situations . . . (2) to any ablebodied individual without minor dependents included in his application." 33 V.S.A. § 2103(a)(2). See W.A.M. 2601.

There is no dispute that the petitioner is able-bodied and that there are no minor dependents. Accordingly, the Department's finding that petitioner is ineligible for General Assistance should be affirmed. 3 V.S.A. § 3091(d), Fair Hearing Rule No. 17.

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